Between the Lines

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THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
CONDENSED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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Labor Racketeers Remain in Power

While it is important that we keep in mind the tremendous changes in our social structure forced by the growth of labor's power, we must not lose sight of the evils that continue to exist in the labor scene. In studying the accounts of the recent American Federation of Labor convention in Toronto, there are some discouraging features to report. Students of the labor movement had high hopes that this convention would institute reforms pointing to a better day in the character of labor leadership.

One would think that with such notorious thugs as Scalise, Bioff and others in prison, a little more courageous action would be in evidence. Men like Joe Fay and Browne, who have become rich from racketeering were left untouched in their places of leadership. Joseph Padway, known to every unioneer as a defender of crooked labor practices, also remains in a place of respect although men like David Dubinsky, conscientious and able leader of the garment workers' union, and some of the railroad union chiefs, are so thoroughly fed up with the gangsters that, as Pegler reports it, they won't even sit in the same meeting with the known racketeers.

It was at least expected that the convention would recognize and administer discipline to those responsible for the recent criminal "kickback" case in Albany where four union racketeers were convicted of stealing illegal dues through the workers' permit system on war jobs. They were fined $10,000 each in federal courts. However, the men behind the scenes, responsible for this plundering, sat with honor at the convention.

Labor marches on, in many respects forcing vast changes for good, but as long as these criminal elements remain unchallenged in places of power, the Christian layman is justified in his concern over the labor-dominated society that is approaching.

India and Ireland

Not many people realize how the Irish and Indian questions are interlinked in British imperial politics. The speeches of famous Irish rebel leaders have long been favorite quotations among restless Indian youths. Many Indian students in England have mingled intimately with the Irish leaders and it is well known that the British Tory leaders fear the Irish rebels more than the Indian.

Attempts have been made on the lives of official Londoners by Irish seditionists. Not long ago a train carrying London dignitaries was fired upon in North England. Bombs are found with uncomfortable frequency in British government buildings.

(*Continued on next page*)

Extra-territoriality Still a Problem

The press has given considerable space to the move on the part of the United States and England to end extra-territoriality in China. But the speedy aftermath of this move has been completely suppressed.

For a while there was much rejoicing in China as well as among China's friends in the west over the apparent evidence that we were changing our feudal attitude toward the Asiatic people. Then the important facts behind the scenes began to appear to those who were close to the picture. **Between the Line's** listening posts in Washington quickly reported that the rejoicing in Chinese official circles was brief and quickly followed by suspicion and now by an increasing disillusionment as certain under-the-surface factors began to be recognized.

First, the United States and Britain did not promise to end extra-territoriality as the reports were made to appear. They simply informed the Chinese that they were prepared to negotiate with China "on the recession of extra-territoriality". Such negotiations could go on for a hundred years, only grudgingly giving back to China what absolute compulsion required.

Second, this opinion was reinforced by the disturbing news from London that while the Tory government had joined in on the extra-territoriality propaganda, London did not intend it to be interpreted that England would relinquish such claims as its holdings in Hong Kong. As one commentator has put it sharply, "if Hong Kong is not to be included, then the whole assertion that the western powers are ready to give up their imperialistic claims in the Far East is a fake."

Britain has no more claim to Hong Kong than the Japanese. Britain took Hong Kong from China in the disgraceful Opium War, a war in which heavily armed Englishmen fought the unarmed medieval Chinese to force China to buy British opium.

The benevolent British imperialists of today speak of the sins of imperialism in the past with a wave of the hand saying, "but that was in another century." As long as they cling to the spoils of the past, morally they belong to the sins of that past.

All this is being suppressed in most of the usual news channels, but it is one of the most important, underground issues of the whole war scene. It will eventually be tied closely to the situation in India and has unlimited possibilities for harm to the cause of peace.

Trend of the Future

We have reported to you that the War Department, and most particularly the Army, snubs small business and openly plays into the hands of big business interests in the war production scene. New evidence of this came to light when General Somervell testified recently before the small business committee of the Senate, a group of statemen who are desperately trying to turn the tide of war orders to small businessmen and thus save the jobs and livelihood of thousands of average citizens.

General Somervell overplayed his hand and expressed little more than contempt for the productive capacity of small plants and factories when the fact is that nearly one-half of the country's productive capacity is represented in small factories, independently owned.

The split between a labor-favoring Administration and a big-business-favoring War Department presents one of the most contradictory situations in American history. Will the trend of the future be toward big business and "big labor" controlling the country? Big industrial managers and big labor leaders have much in common. Let us keep our eyes on this development.

League of United Nations NOW

You hear very little about it outside of Washington but an important contribution to the building of world peace is being made by T. V. Soong, the Chinese Foreign Minister in Washington. Soong is one of China's top men. He insists that we must not wait until after the war to form a league of United Nations, for then the victorious nations will start bickering over the spoils and the strong will crowd out the weak, thus establishing the beginnings of another war.

Mr. Soong's case is well presented for this is exactly what happened in the peace conferences of the last war. The Chinese statesman sharply implies that if Britain and America do not intend to use this war to gain selfish aims in Asia and elsewhere, they should be willing to form a league of United Nations **NOW**, to include China, Russia and representatives of the Indian and Malay States.

London's silence to all such proposals is ominous. However, since the United States took the lead in trying to abolish the extra-territoriality status of western interests in Asia, it may be possible that our government has in mind further reforms that will approach the Soong demands. Watch this development if you are interested in the shape of things to come.

India and Ireland

(*Continued from first page*)

It is hard for an Irish politician to get interviews in London. One American writer, familiar with the Irish question, reports that for years Churchill's secretaries have been instructed promptly to toss out anybody who comes in speaking a brogue. Occasionally, of course, the wrong officials get the bum's rush by mistake.

There should be a plot for a musical comedy someplace in this.

How They Do It

A typical way news today is handled is illustrated by the following incident. In Asheville, North Carolina, recently, a Congress on Social Correction was held and the leading speaker Austin H. McCormick, a national authority on crime, scored alcohol as the cause of fifty percent of the crimes committed today. He quoted court authorities for proof. This was the lead story reported in the **New York Times** coverage of the convention addresses. But the **Associated Press** story which was syndicated throughout the country dropped all mention of the alcohol indictment and just carried a brief summary of other minor items concerning overcrowded housing conditions, etc., in relation to crime.

Women and Unions

A very important trend will soon be appearing in the ranks of organized labor. The women workers in most industries are taking to unionism with real enthusiasm. The union's platform of securing equal wages for men and women has great force; there are thousands of instances where industrialists have taken advantage of the opportunity to lower wage scales when women have replaced men at the same task. This trend pre-dates the war although it has been enormously increased by the war. The influence of women's interest in unionism will do much to raise it to a more favorable light before the average American household. Also it is believed by students of the labor movement that the influence of women union membership will do much to drive out racketeering practices in labor organizations.

Religious Press Silent on Poll Tax

The newspapers and magazines in general have been silent on the struggle to legislate a federal law to abolish the poll tax. This silence on the part of the commercial press is made significant by

Trends

An inflammatory speech by Horace C. Wilkinson, former Ku Klux Klan leader has been widely circulated through the South. Appealing to anti-Negro prejudice, Wilkinson attacked the Administration, the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee, and both the Republican party and the New Deal Democrats. He is calling for the formation, southwide and nationwide, of a **"League to Maintain White Supremacy."** It is reported that before Wilkinson made his violent anti-Negro speech he met with some twenty-five reactionary southern Congressmen. The widespread propaganda around his speech indicates it was more than an isolated individual outburst.

Governor Dixon of Alabama has even rejected a war production contract because it contained the Administration's usual racial nondiscrimination clause.

Racial prejudice is being deliberately exploited to build a political movement directed against President Roosevelt's progressive social legislation and against labor. One of the most serious immediate effects of all this propaganda of racial intolerance is its impact on war production. Racial disturbances have occurred in northern as well as southern plants, promoted by similar elements in both cases.

On the other hand, Americans should be grateful for the number of liberal southern newspapers which fight rumors that tend to increase racial tensions. For months we have received various reports from different areas along this line. For instance, sometime ago a story was spread in several sections of the south that Negroes were planning to take advantage of the blackouts by attacking the white residents with ice-picks of which they were supposed to have bought up all the existing supply. This rumor was completely dissipated by the quick and effective work of intelligent journalists in the affected districts.

In the southwest, a rumor that Negroes were having secret meetings at night with fifth columnists was met by the action of Negro pastors whose parishes deeply penetrated the areas in question. These pastors offered to cooperate with any group which wished to carry on investigations.

Since the arrest by the F. B. I. in Chicago of Negroes who were actually engaged in just such activities, a new wave of rumors is now afflicting certain sections. The F. B. I. is entirely capable of handling all real occasions of un-American or criminal action, and white and colored Christians could serve their country most effectively by guarding against the spread of vicious lies.

Questions Being Asked in Washington

Why does the Administration refuse to give the companies operating artificial rubber plants the usual after-war option-to-buy clauses in their contracts? Such clauses are written into agreements with firms operating government-built plants for other war products. The conclusion many draw is that certain interests expect the British to be back in control of natural rubber after the war, and that they intend to hand the rubber business back to them, scrapping our own artificial rubber plants in spite of their enormous cost.

Between the Lines ventures to guess that, whatever the Administration's inclination might be as to protection of Britain's rubber business (should some miracle return to them their old rubber holdings), our artificial rubber industry will be producing such a satisfactory product by the war's end that no political combine will be able to keep it off the market. And most Americans don't want to return to the old dependence on export for such a vital commodity as rubber.

Another Question

If big corporations are as unselfish as their propagandists would have us think, why do they strive to protect monopoly rights even in war contracts? The Du Pont Company tried to insert a one-way clause in the contracts covering their operation of the government's all important lucite plants . . . seems that Du Pont wanted their option-to-buy rights to include the commitment from the government that, should Du Pont not choose to take up its option-to-buy after the war, the government must scrap the plants rather than permit anyone else to buy and operate them.

Needless to say this clause didn't get by, even though lucite patents are controlled by Du Pont.

The Musician vs Canned Music

The papers have carried much news during the past weeks concerning the refusal of the musicians union under Petrillo to allow records to be played over the small radio stations. Demands that theatres not be allowed to use recorded music also has been played up in the press.

While it is true that union leader Petrillo has used dictatorial and tyrannical methods to assert his cause, from the standpoint of honesty it is also true that the newspapers, which are nearly

The newspapers and magazines in general have been silent on the struggle to legislate a federal law to abolish the poll tax. This silence on the part of the commercial press is made significant by the loud voice of the powerful labor press urging the passage of laws to end this tax.

Also the religious press has for the most part remained silent. This does not make a good picture. No matter what your attitude toward the poll tax may be, the rigid silence of the capitalistic press, the indifference of the subsidized religious press, in contrast to the wide support of organized labor for extending democracy to our lower stratas of society, does not make for an easy mind.

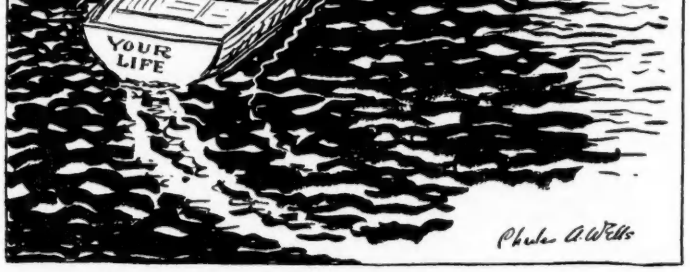
A moderate movement toward reform is the best way to stop a storm. When the church drifts into the wrong side of such a struggle, danger lies ahead. The story of the Russian Church offers ample proof of this. Bad unionism is a menace to society, and bad unionism that gets things done will rapidly eclipse the church that does nothing.

Soviet Distrusts United Nations

One of America's most responsible reporters recently let out some particularly disturbing information. It has been suppressed in many quarters and we are afraid you missed it. It is too important to miss and verifies information we gave you some time ago.

The story goes that Stalin not only is disgusted with the small amount of aid he is getting from his allies but he also exercises little tact in making his disgust known to representatives of the United Nations who are stationed in Moscow. He took occasion at one official dinner to remark, in the hearing of the British Ambassador, that it would be a good idea for the United States to route supply shipments for Russia some other way than via the British Isles. Top-notch American products, said Stalin, are held in Britain and inferior materials substituted for them so that the equipment which finally reaches Russia is far below the standard of American war production.

Stalin also feels that the Soviet government is being snubbed by Washington because the men sent to Moscow to represent the United States do not rank as high in prestige as the Soviet envoys to Washington. Men like Litvinov and Molotov, are of an importance equal to that of Henry L. Stimson or Cordell Hull, and until men of such calibre represent the United States at the Russian capital, the Soviet leader feels that Washington is being criminally and deliberately obtuse in recognizing the value and importance of Russia in the world war effort.



THE LITTLE OAR

Did you ever try to row a boat with unmatched oars,—one smaller than the other? Only with great effort can any satisfying progress be made, for there is a constant pulling away from the course which spoils one's stroke. A lot of people live like that all the time, trying to make progress with this unnecessary handicap holding them back. The one oar of life's material elements — job, food, fun and other worldly things—should be sturdy and strong, but to get the best pull out of that oar any good boatman will tell you that you need a good stout oar of equal length and weight in the other hand. There must be honesty to match the job, gratitude to God to accompany the everyday blessings of life and moral character to match the fun. With those two oars firmly in your hand, life is right, and you can pull hard and long without weariness or confusion.

Atrocity Photographs

There are collections of new atrocity reports, some of them illustrated with actual photographs, being shown around Washington by military men who have just returned from the far war zones. Some of the photographs are from Nazi-occupied Russia and Poland, showing Russian and Polish peasants in a pitiful condition of starvation and suffering as a result of the Nazi plan deliberately to wipe them out by these "non-violent" means. These particular photographs were secured by the Russian secret service and have been smuggled into allied hands.

The pictures from Asia are still more horrible, showing Japanese abuse of war prisoners and portraying especially the indescribable treatment of helpless Chinese prisoners.

There is a debate on among Washington officials as to whether this material should be used for propaganda. By the time you read this they may decide to release the photographs and you may have seen them. And again you may not.

Bingo

Between the Lines quotes, without comment, the following item from the **New York Times:**

"The Yonkers police have extended the ban on bingo to games played under church auspices, in line with the new anti-gambling drive of City Manager William A. Walsh, it was disclosed today by the pastors of two of the three Catholic churches here that conduct weekly bingo games.

"Four commercial bingo games were closed last Tuesday night, but doubt was expressed then that the ban would affect the weekly games played at St. Casimir's, St. Peter's, and Holy Trinity Churches. However, Mgr. Joseph Dworzak, pastor of St. Casimir's, said today that Detective Lieutenant Henry Murphy had notified him to discontinue the games. The Rev. John Kubasek, pastor of Holy Trinity, said he had received the same notice. The Rev. James Brown, pastor of Saint Peter's, said he had not yet received word, but that 'I suppose all the churches will have to close the games'."

While it is true that union leader Petrillo has used dictatorial and tyrannical methods to assert his cause, from the standpoint of honesty it is also true that the newspapers, which are nearly all anti-labor in their attitude, have just as grossly exaggerated and misrepresented the union musicians' position. We believe the Christian layman should know that some few of America's newspapers have actually defended the union musicians' demands. Since few citizens can know the truth behind the scenes, we would like to present it in an unprejudiced Christian light.

A musician acquires his knowledge of his art and his skill only through long periods of hard work and generally at considerable expense. Despite this careful training, however, he finds it increasingly hard today to make a living. Only thirty-five percent of the members of the musicians union are steadily employed although music, is now being enjoyed by millions, while previously it was heard only by thousands. One important reason for this situation is the fact that records are being used extensively to replace living musicians. More than half of the radio stations in the country depend exclusively upon records for their musical programs, and approximately 500,000 juke boxes replace small orchestras in places of entertainment. It has been estimated that 95 percent of the music heard today is canned.

The use of records for such purposes results in large profits (the yearly income from records used in juke boxes alone amounts to nearly $150,000,000) but the income received by the musicians who make the records approximates an insignificant fraction of the total. As the commercial use of records increases, the employment of the professional musician decreases and it is not improbable that in the future the production of records will become very difficult because of the scarcity of trained performers.

Is it not reasonable, then, for the musician to ask for a fair and sensible solution which will permit us to continue to enjoy music and permit him to continue to live? Is it not fair and just that the recording and radio industries, which earn big financial rewards from the talent and skill of the musician, should be willing to work out some system of sharing their profits with the men who create that profit? These men do not ask for restrictions, financial or legal, on records produced for home use, they are requesting equitable legislation to prevent radio stations and jukebox operators from the increasing and regular substitution of records bearing the phrase "for home use only" for actual musicians.

There is a point here which the unprejudiced Christian mind will acknowledge and respect.

Profits in War Contracts

Here is a summary of the past war months presented by Senator Lafollette to his constituency through his **Progressive.** Mr. Lafollette has been in on the ground floor of Congressional committee investigations.

"There are some occasions when the public gets at least a fleeting glimpse of what the war profiteers are really doing behind their glittering facade of patriotism. The Justice Department has lifted the lid on nine electric cable firms indicted for conspiring against the government for the purpose of making excessive profits on vital war materials.

"The Rockbestos Products Corporation of New Haven, Connecticut, and eight other producers which it has licensed are the only manufacturers of a special, patented "AVC" electric cable extensively used by the Navy because of its unusual resistance to fire and water. Since 1940 the Navy has bought over $50,000,000 worth of it from them.

"However, since as far back as 1937 these companies have agreed among themselves to eliminate all competition in bidding on government contracts. When the Navy has called for bids, the bids submitted have been identical, even down to the fourth decimal. The Rockbestos Corporation, owner of the patent, has set the price, and the rest have followed suit. The business then has been apportioned among the various companies as convenience required.

"Once when by mistake the bid of one company happened to be $5 under the bids of the rest, the Rockbestos Corporation requested the Navy to award the contract to one of the others and volunteered to pay the difference.

"As a result of these practices, the companies involved have been making profits ranging from 35 to 70 percent on Navy orders, according to the government's investigation.

"This is just a sample. The war frauds unit of the Department of Justice has a docket of 300 cases. Many of them are similar to the Rockbestos case. Many are cases of contractors who have tried to put over defective materials on the government. Most numerous are the cases of so-called manufacturers' agents who sell their 'influence' to companies seeking war contracts. Some are out-and-out bribery cases.

"Collusion among naval contractors is nothing new. When Congress attempted to limit the profits of shipbuilders by passage of the Vinson Act in 1934, various representatives of different branches of the industry met in New York to hold a council of war. At that meeting it was the president of Sperry Gyroscope Company who suggested, "If the shipbuilders, boiler manufacturers, and electrical manufacturers act in accordance with uniform rules, it will be so strong that I think the government bureaus would have a hard time resisting".

"The same Sperry Gyroscope Company, following an investigation by the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives this year, suddendly found itself able to lop $100,000,000 off its prices on existing contracts with the Army and Navy.

"The average American business man is an honest, patriotic citizen eager to do his part in winning the war" (but a powerful minority is always ready and willing to cash in when it can).

"The House Naval Affairs Committee during the past year and a half investigated slightly less than 40,000 naval contracts with a total value of $4,500,000,000. Some contractors reported to the Committee that they had average profits ranging as high as 119 percent on completed contracts. One contract carried a profit of 1,768 percent.

"The profits on ship construction—the admitted profits stated on the contractors' own reports—ran up to 28 percent. Companies and individuals that sold vessels to the Navy which were already operating realized profits ranging as high as 167 percent.

"It must be said, in justice to the Navy, that it has endeavored in the face of this situation to renegotiate some of its contracts. Up to the present time it is estimated that the direct and indirect savings thus effected by both Army and Navy total more than $700,000,000.

"But this only scratches the surface. The direct savings realized by the Navy alone, the actual amount by which existing naval contracts have been reduced so far by renegotiation, is something in the neighborhood of $250,000,000. If that much can be pared off the cost of the $4,500,000,000 worth of contracts that came within the purview of the House Committee's investigation, the possibilities of wringing excess profits out of the $220,000,000,000 war program authorized to date stagger the imagination."

Power of the Scriptures

We have had various reports concerning the distributing of Scriptures among Russians war prisoners in Germany and Poland. The Nazis have begrudgingly permitted such distributions through various international religious bodies.

Of course most of the Russian prisoners are communist-reared atheists. In one camp of over 10,000 men, there were only eighteen Christians. However, these organized a prayer group which met secretly. Later they were allowed to meet openly. **The Evangelical Christian** reports that, in this instance, in six months there were six hundred converts and eventually a Baptist church was organized with a prisoner for a pastor. In other camps it has been reported that Russian prisoners, converted through the reading of the Scriptures, have in turn influenced the conversion of their Nazi guards.

When the war is over we will hear of many miracles that will challenge deeply the soft, pampered faith of America. Those miracles are now being wrought on the anvil of human need. A paper bound Testament placed in the grimy hands of a starved Russian prisoner can prove to the world the power of God's word.

Sheridan, Not Bismarck

For the most part we should say that government propaganda agencies are trying to rely on truth. The excesses of 1917 have not, as a rule, been repeated. Are they beginning to creep back again out of the slime? In radio versions of the movie, "The Invaders," broadcast for the Treasury Department, it is put forward that Bismarck cruelly counselled you should leave your enemy nothing but his eyes to weep with over war. That, as it happens, was not Bismarck, but our own General Phil Sheridan, who expressed the opinion at Berlin during the Franco-Prussian War, after protests had been received against harsh German treatment of the town of Bazeilles. Let's leave that sort of history-twisting to Goebbels.

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